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Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Psoralea corylifolia L. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." Indian Medicinal Plants. (1918)].

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Pankaj Oudhia

Introduction

Based on Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 in different parts of India Pankaj Oudhia has documented vital information about Medicinal Plants mentioned in the famous publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Through this research document Pankaj Oudhia has tried to present original document with additional notes. For complete paper with pictures, Interactive Tables, Video and Audio clips please visit pankajoudhia.com

For original publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918) please visit <https://archive.org/details/indianmedicinalp01kirt>

358. *Psoralea corylifolia*, - Linn* h.f.b.i., ii. 103,

Roxb. 588.

Sans. : — Sugandha, kantik, avalgiga, vakuchi, sonia-raj.

Vern. : — Buckchi, babchi (H.); Hakuch (B.j; Bawachi (Bomb.);

Karpoo-garishi, karpngan, karu, bogi-vittulu (Tain.) ; Kour-

gestum, bapungie (Tel.) ; Kourkoal (Mai.) ; Bawchan (Duk.) ;

Babehi (Pb.).

Habitat : — Plains ; from the Himalayas throughout India

proper.

An erect, annual, herbaceous under-shrub, 1-3ft. high. Branches firm, copiously gland-dotted. The plant under preservation lives for several years, six or seven or even more, reaching a height of 6 or 7 ft. Leaves simple, distinctly petioled, roundish, 1-3in. long, incise-repand, firm in texture, both sides conspicuously dotted with black dots, very glabrescent. Racemes dense, short. Flowers 10-30, in dense, copious, long-peduncled heads. Calyx nearly sessile, 5-lobed, teeth lanceolate, long, the lowest long. Corolla yellow, a little exserted. Pod small, black, sub-globose, glabrous.

Use : —Native works on Materia Medica describe the seeds as hot and dry, or, according to some, cold and dry, laxative, stimulant and aphrodisiac. They are recommended in leprosy, and other chronic skin diseases, and are given internally and applied externally as a plaster ; they are also said to be useful in bilious affections and as an anthelmintic (Dymock). : .

In southern India, they are used as a stomachic and deob-

struent, and prescribed in lepra and other cutaneous diseases

(AinslieV

An oleature of Bavchi for use in leprosy internally and externally was once prepared by Mr. D. S. Kemp, so far back as 1870.

<iframe width="420" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/riCiBsY8X6E" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

<iframe width="420" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/fDMOi16jLWM" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

In the Concan, the seeds, are used in making a' perfumed oil which is applied to the skin (Dymock.). Rai Bahadur K. L. Dey speaks highly of the oleo-resinous extract of the seeds, diluted with simple ointment, as an application to leucoderma. After application for some days the white patches appear to become red or vascular ; sometimes a slightly painful sensation

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is felt. Occasionally some small vesicles or pimples appear ;
and if these be allowed to remain undisturbed they dry up,
leaving a dark spot of pigmentary matter, which forms as it
were a nucleus. From this point, as well as from the margin
of the patch, pigmentary matters gradually develop which ultimately coalesce with each other, and thus the whole patch disappears. It is also remarkable that fresh patches are arrested by its application (Ph. J., Sept. 24th, 1881). Extensively tried in Bombay by Bhao Daji and others as a remedy in leprosy, and, I believe, with some success- Several species of Psoralea have been used medicinally in America, and have been found to act as gently stimulating and tonic nervines. Tried in leprosy with a certain amount of success (Dymock.)

[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: In over 550,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations used for treatment of different types of skin diseases Psoralea is added as important ingredient. Not only seeds but also Allelopathically enriched all parts are used in different combination. The place of collection plays vital role in making the Formulations effective. Also the stage of collection of plant parts. Out of thousands of popular Formulations very few are known to modern science and modern researchers have done much work on Psoralea as single herb instead of conducting research on Psoralea based Formulations specially complex herbal formulations in which 200 plus herbs are added and Psoralea plays key role.]

I have documnted information about over 200,000 Formulations in which seeds are added as tertiary ingredient. These Formulations are known for aphrodisac properties.

Psoralea roots are added in over 45,000 Formulations as nonary ingredient. These Formulations are used for blood diseases.

Please see Tables Psora-1 to Psora-500 for exhaustive details about importance of this species in Traditional Healing.]

The seeds yield 20*15 per cent, of a thick, reddish-brown oil to ether.

Fat : Specific gravity at 100°, 0*9107 ; acid value, 3918 ; saponification value, 204*6 ; Reichert-Meissl value, 6*9 ; iodine value, 79*9 ; unsaponifiable, 1*73 ; butyro-refractometer at 25°, 79*5°.

Fatty acids (insoluble) : per cent 88*3 ; melting point, 32-8 ; iodine value, 83*06 ; neutralisation value, 192*4 ; mean molecular weight, 291*5. (A. K. Menon.)
{Agricultural Ledger 1911-12— No. 5, p. 139.)

E-documents on Psoralea

<http://ecoport.org/ep?SearchType=articleList&Author=oudhia&...>

Citation

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